

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for versioning an electronic document based on XML, the electronic document being managed using a syntax defining a structure of the structured electronic document, the method comprising:

identifying a structure of an electronic document; and

using date information of when a structure content of the electronic document is changed as a version value.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein when a lower structure content of the corresponding electronic document is changed, the version value of the lower structure is updated and the updated version value is reflected in a version value of an upper structure.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein a largest value of the version values of the lower structures is used as the version value of the upper structure.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein a type of the updated lower structure is included in the version value of the upper structure.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the date information includes a time of the structure content change.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the structure determines an identifier information, and wherein the version value discriminates a desired electronic document when the identifier information is identical for two electronic documents.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the date information includes a time of the structure content change.

8. A method for versioning an electronic document based on XML, the electronic document being managed using a syntax defining a structure of the structured electronic document, the method comprising:

determining contents of an electronic document defined by the syntax; and  
using date and time information of when a content of the electronic document is changed as a version value.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein when a lower structure content of the corresponding electronic document is changed, the version value of the lower structure is updated and the updated version value is reflected in a version value of an upper structure.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein a largest value of the version values of the lower structures is used as the version value of the upper structure.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein a type of the updated lower structure is additively included in the version value of the upper structure.

12. A method for requesting an electronic document based on XML, the electronic document being managed using a syntax defining a structure of the structured electronic document, the method comprising:

identifying a version value of an electronic document; and

requesting an updated information of the electronic document using the version value as a condition.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein a requester requests the updated information of the electronic document having a more recent version value than the version value.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the requesting the updated information of the electronic document comprises:

selecting a lower structure content of the electronic document; and

requesting the updated information of the selected lower structure having a subsequent version value than the version value.

15. A method for providing an updated electronic document based on XML, the electronic document being managed using a syntax defining a structure of the structured electronic document, the method comprising:

identifying a version value of an electronic document, wherein the version value determines at least one of date and time information of a changed content of the electronic document; and

providing an updated information of the electronic document using the version value as a condition.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the providing the updated information of the electronic document comprises:

determining a selected content of the electronic document; and

providing the updated information of the selected content having a later version value than the version value.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein when the version value of a requested electronic document identifies a version of the electronic document possessed by the requester, the version value provided by the requester is compared and only the latest updated information of the requested electronic document is provided.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the provided updated information updates only the corresponding electronic document that can be identified by an identifier.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein when a lower structure content of the electronic document is changed, the version value of the lower structure is updated and included in a version value of an upper structure.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein a largest value of the version values of the lower structures is used as the version value of the upper structure.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein a type of the updated lower structure is additively reflected in the version value of the upper structure.

22. A method for processing an electronic document using a version based on XML, the electronic document being managed using a syntax defining a structure of the structured electronic document, the method comprising:

providing an identifier for an electronic document; and

providing a version value for the electronic document in which at least one of date information and date with time information of when a content of the electronic document is changed are used as the version value of the corresponding electronic document, wherein the version value is used to distinguish two electronic documents having the same identifier.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein when a lower structure content of the corresponding electronic document is changed, the version value of the lower structure is updated and included in a version value of an upper structure.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein a largest value of the version values of the lower structures is used as the version value of the upper structure.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein a type of the updated lower structure is additively reflected in the version value of the upper structure.